



#90

TEL 512.472.8788 FAX 512.476.1304

Administration & Family Services 55 North IH 35, Ste. 240 Austin, TX 78702

ReStore 310 Comal, Ste. 100 Austin, TX 78702

Construction 916 Springdale Rd. Austin, TX 78702

www.AustinHabitat.org

Late Backup

Memorandum

Date: April 7, 2011

To: Austin City Council

From: Michael Willard, President & CEO, Austin Habitat for Humanity

RE: NHCD Fiscal Year 2011-2010 Action Plan

In a few short weeks Austin Habitat will begin building a home with Neida Rivero. Neida is a terrific single mother who is taking care of her elderly parents while raising her children in a two bedroom apartment.

This home is very special to Neida and her family because it answers her prayers for a stable home. Additionally, the house is special because it represents Austin Habitat's 300th home in our community. With this milestone home we estimate that there are over 1,500 individuals that have been able to live in Habitat homes.

Homeownership for low income families – families making 25 – 50 % of MFI – is a critical need in Austin. Austin Habitat targets these low-income families to provide homeownership opportunities and repairs for homeowner occupied homes.

The Neighborhood Housing and Community Development department has been a partner with us to build and repair these homes. Austin Habitat endorses the CHDO Roundtables recommendations to:

- **Recognize the housing needs of ALL lower income Austinites and reaffirm a commitment to addressing them.**
- **Revise the Annual and Consolidated Plan process to use current and consistent data and analysis across the housing continuum, filling in existing gaps.**
- **Set specific goals across the entire spectrum of affordable housing needs for numbers of units over one, five and ten-year periods, while maintaining flexibility and a predictable process to revise priorities on an annual basis.**
- **Creatively seek new sources of revenue for affordable housing and supportive services.**
- **Increase the priority of funding CHDOs and nonprofits in order to achieve the core values of DEEPER AFFORDABILITY, LONGER-TERM AFFORDABILITY AND GEOGRAPHIC DISPERSION.**

2011 Board of Directors || Sherine Thomas • Chair | Dr. George Gau • Vice Chair | Robbi Millett • Secretary | Sarah Stasney-Chun • Treasurer

Joe Arenella, Bruce Coleman, Mildred Davis, Dan Doman, Chris Elliott, Luke Ellis, Mark Hutcheson, Mitch Jacobson, Elinor Mayfield, Nikelle Meade, Lana Morris, Everett Plante, Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, Jeff Serra, Brian Sharples, Judge Eric Shepperd, Matt Williamson

Damon Silvestry & Gina Wey • Emeritus Members | J. Michael Willard • President & CEO

The Rivero Family

Neida Rivero and her family moved to Austin in 2003 from Cuba. They came in search of a better life and more opportunities. "Every day was a fight," she remembers about her life in Cuba. "We worked hard, but there was always a lack of basic necessities... clothing, food. That was normal."

Neida talks about how much better life is here in Austin. "We have more dignity and have enough food to eat breakfast every morning." Because the rations of food were so small in Cuba, Neida would go without breakfast each morning so that her children would have more to eat. Though life in Austin is more plentiful for the Rivero family, Neida knows that there's more to find.

When they moved here, the Rivero children were 11 and 17. Neida has worked in housekeeping at the Hilton for 7 years. Her children have grown and now hold jobs as well. Her daughter, now 26, lives on her own. Neida, her 19-year-old son and her parents continue to share the same 2-bedroom apartment where they've lived for the past 6 years. "We can't afford a 3-bedroom apartment," she explains, "and I would live my whole life wishing for a home if I hadn't found Habitat."

Neida is so enthusiastic about the work of Habitat that she has already completed more than 400 hours of sweat equity and says she's just going to keep going! She looks forward to simply having more space for her family. "I'm not asking God to give me a million dollars, just happiness and stability."



*"I'm not asking God to give me a million dollars-
Just Happiness and stability"*

Austin
Habitat
for Humanity®
CHANGE LIVES™